THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As a part of the National Perspective plan, National Water Development Agency (NWDA) studied a link proposal for diversion of 634 Million Cubic Metre (mm^3) from out of the combined surpluses (3127mm^3) of Pamba and Achankovil rivers in Kerala to Vaippar basin in Tamil Nadu for irrigating 91400 ha of drought prone area. Besides, the link proposal envisages a pumped storage scheme to generate about 500 MW of power during peak hours for the benefit of Kerala. The feasibility report of the link project was completed by NWDA in 1995.

(c) and (d) The Government of India has forwarded a copy of the Resolution dated 6.8.2003 adopted unanimously by the Kerala Legislative Assembly urging the Central Government to give up the Pamba-Achankovil-Vaippar Link Project completely. The Chief Minister of Kerala in July, 2006 also submitted a memorandum to Prime Minister in which he has iterated the contents of the Resolution of the Legislative Assembly of Kerala of August, 2003. The Ministry of Water Resources has taken note of the Resolution of the Kerala Legislative Assembly and has decided not to treat Pamba-Achankovil-Vaippar link as a priority link.

Rain water harvesting

1638. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to adopt a multi prolonged strategy for achieving maximum coverage of rain water harvesting;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Central Ground Water Board has identified 4.5 lakh sq. km. suitable for artificial recharge of ground water; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) and (b) 'Water' being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to adopt a multi prolonged strategy for achieving maximum coverage of rain water

harvesting in their respective States. However, the Union Government have also taken following measures in this regard:—

(i) Circulation of Manual/Guidelines on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water to the States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to conserve and use rain water.

(ii) Central Ministries/Departments of Railways, Defence, Posts, Telecommunications, Central Public Works Department and National Highways Authority of India have been requested to provide roof top rain water harvesting structures in the buildings under their control.

(iii) An 'Artificial Recharge of Ground Water Advisory Council's has been constituted by the Government in the Ministry of Water Resources with an objective to popularize the concept of artificial recharge including rain water harvesting among all stakeholders and its adoption.

(iv) Ministry of Water Resoruces have circulated a revised Model Bill to regulate and control the development and management of ground water to the States/Union Territories in 2005, which has a separate chapter on rain water harvesting for Ground Water Recharge. The Bill provides for issuance of directions by the State Ground Water Authority to the concerned departments of the State/UT Government to include rain water harvesting in all developmental schemes falling under areas notified by the Authority. The Bill also provides for imposition of stipulated conditions by the Municipal Corporations or other local authorities for providing roof top rain water harvesting structures in building plan in an area of 100 sq. m. or more, while according approval for construction.

(v) Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has issued directions to Group Housing Societies, Institutes, Hotels, Industries, Farm Houses, etc., in the notified areas of Delhi, Faridabad, Gurgaon and Ghaziabad and other areas of NCT Delhi where ground water table is below 8 meters from ground surface, to adopt rain water harvesting system.

(vi) CGWB has provided technical guidance on rain water harvesting to more than 2500 agencies, including State Government agencies, educational institutions, private entrepreneurs and individuals.

(vii) With a view to bring rain water harvesting schemes closer to common people, films on rain water harvesting in urban aeas and rural areas have been produced for wide publicity among masses. Mass awareness programmes and training courses on rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge of ground water have been organized throughout the country involving Central/ State Goverments/Non-Government Organizations / Voluntary Organizations / Resident Welfare Associations / Educational Institutions / Industries and Individuals.

(viii) Rail Water Harvesting campaign has also been launched keeping in view the various target groups. Publicity through print media, telecasting of spots on the television, broadcasting messages on radio, holding of seminars, workshops, conferences etc., have also been undertaken.

(ix) The Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation, Government of India have amended Building Bye-laws, 1983, making provision for water harvesting through storing of water run-off including rain water in all new buildings on plots of 100 square meters and above in Delhi mandatory. Similarly, State Governments of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Rajasthan and Kerala have made roof top rain water harvesting mandatory in specified cases.

(x) An activity namely, "Demonstration of Rain Water Harvesting from Roof Tops and two toilets in Governments schools in rural areas in various States through Community Based Organizations (CBOs)" was taken up during Fresh Water Year, 2003-04. Based on its success, more girls rural Government schools have been covered with roof top rain water harvesting projects, during 2005-07.

(xi) A demonstrative scheme on "Rain Water Harvesting Artificial Recharge to Ground Water" is being implemented in 13 identified

areas of the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu at a total cost of Rs. 12 crores during the year 2006-07.

(xii) The Department of Land Resources under Ministry of Rural Development is implementing rain water harvesting by construction of vairous types of structures under their Area Development Programmes.

(xiii) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas being implemented in 28 States and 2 Union Territories, Soil and Water Conservation for treatment of Catchment Areas in 27 States and Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Area in all the States of North-Eastern region being implemented by Ministry of Agriculture have rain water harvesting as one of the components.

(c) and (d) Based on various studies carried out by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) to demarcate the areas where decline of ground water level is on continuous basis and identify areas feasible for recharge, CGWB has prepared a conceptual report titled 'Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water'. In this report, a total of 4.5 lakh sq. km. area has been identified in the country which needs artificial recharge of ground water. It has been estimated that annually about 36 BCM (Billion Cubic Meter) of surplus monsoon run off can be recharged to augment ground water. The salient features of the report are given below:

1. Area Identified for Artificial Recharge	4.45 lakh sq. km.
2. Volume of water to be recharged [*in Million Cubic Meter (MCM)*]	36453 MCM
3. Total number of structures proposed	
* In Rural areas	2.25 lakh
* In Urban areas (Roof top rain water harvesting)	37.00 lakh
Total:	39.25 lakh

12.00 Noon

4. Estimated Cost

* In Rural areas	Rs. 19874 Crore
* In Urban areas	Rs. 4586 Crore
Total:	Rs. 24460 Crore or say Rs. 24500 Crore

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Notifications of the Ministry of Finance

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I lay on the Table a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), under section 296 of the Income-tax Act, 1961, together with Explanatory Memoranda on the Notifications:

(1) S.O. 1152 (E) dated the 20th July, 2006, publishing the Income-tax (Sixth Amendment) Rules, 2006.

(2) S.O. 1153 (E) dated the 20th July, 2006 notifying ten public facilities as infrastructure facility for the purpose of section 36(1)(viii)(d) of the Income-tax Act, 1961. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 4589/06]

I. **Report and Accounts (2002—04) of the North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala and related papers**

II. **Report and Accounts (2004-05) of the Asiatic Society, Kolkata and related papers**

III. **Report and Accounts (2003-04) of the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal and related papers**

IV. **Report and Accounts (2004-05) of the Nava Nalanda Mahavihara, Nalanda and related papers**

V. **Report and Accounts (2004-05) of the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarnath and related papers**